

Can We Say it as a Map? Re-presenting Textual Language Descriptions as Maps

In this paper, landscape descriptions taken from a verbal non-fiction texts, namely, *Major Peter Schnitlers grenseeksaminasjonsprotokoller 1742–1745, volume 1* (Oslo, 1962), will be presented. The text was written as background material for border negotiations in Scandinavia in the early 1740s.

The text has been analysed using a semi-automatic modelling process. The data included in the model consists of the results from a reading of a digital version of the text, with a special eye towards geographical information.

There is a significant reduction of complexity in the conversion from text to model. The model is event based, which means that facts are stored as statements about the world put forward in specific speech events. The model stores contradictory facts if and when they exist. Identifying contradictions is important, but that is done at a later stage.

The model is used to investigate how information taken from the text can be expressed as maps. Expressing information *as* a map is different from expressing information *onto* a pre-existing map, no matter if this pre-existing map is mental or exist as a document. Based on the problems uncovered through the modelling work, a typology is developed. This typology will be presented in some detail in the paper, together with the textual evidence on which it is based.

In the struggle every text creator go through, the restrictions of the media being used is there, to be obeyed or to be questioned. I will show how geographical maps and verbal texts are different media, and how these differences have consequences not only for *how* things are said, but also for *what* can be said at all using these two media.